



Programme 2010

16 June – Continuing the My House series with a talk by Ian Cooper who lives in the Apprentice Store at De Montalt Mill. Ian's restoration of the building was featured on the Channel 4 TV programme *Grand Designs* and we look forward to hearing the inside story of the benefits (or otherwise) of such exposure!

The dates for your diary for the autumn meetings are 15 Sept, 20 Oct and 17 Nov.

All talks are at Combe Down Primary School, Summer Lane. Refreshments are available at 7.00 pm - meetings start at 7.30 sharp.
Admission: members free, non-members £1

For all our meetings, do keep an eye on the notices in the village centre. All the Society's publications are on sale at the meetings. Further details from the Chairman or Secretary.

South Stoke - the church and parish through 800 years

An exhibition in South Stoke Village Hall to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the first recorded vicar of South Stoke.

Saturday 24 July 2010 10am - 6pm Sunday 25 July 2010 11am - 6pm All welcome - free entry

Subscriptions and standing orders

It was unanimously agreed at the AGM in March that a system for members to pay their annual subscriptions and donations by Standing Order direct from their bank account should be introduced immediately and this has been done. We hope that it will simplify things for members, so that there will be no need to worry whether they are up to date or not, and that it will also maintain the membership of those whose busy lives prevent them from getting to meetings very often. It should also simplify the life of the Membership Secretary!

So, if you still have to pay your subscription for this year, please consider using this method as it will help considerably. Forms will be available at all future meetings or by calling the Membership Secretary on 833790. For those who have already renewed this year, we will issue a reminder in the Autumn and hope that as many members as possible will change over to Standing Order Payment for the year 2011-2012 and beyond.

At the AGM at the same time, an increase in the membership subscriptions was agreed, to £5 per adult, £12 for families, and £3 for concessions, i.e. students and seniors – still a bargain, but more in line with similar societies in our area.

Gift of pictures from the Old Vicarage

The Society is very grateful to Sophie, daughter of the late Dr Anne Turner, for the splendid gift of important pictures of Combe Down.



The two lithographs of Holy Trinity Church and De Montalt Mill are particularly welcome as they are in pristine condition showing very delicate lithographic chalk work characteristic of topographical prints of the mid 19th century. The print of De Montalt Mill (above) corroborates Dick Irving's theory about the route of William Smith's railway (see his monograph on the subject published by CDHS, price £15). The view of the church is thought to have been based on the architect's (Goodridge) drawings as the building was not complete when the lithograph was drawn.

Two aerial photographs show the Old Vicarage from the back and front - the building is almost impossible to photograph on foot due to the large number of trees.

The prize of the collection is on temporary loan to the Society and we are having a faithful copy made. It is a unique pencil drawing dated 1839 by an unknown hand. It shows the view standing in Summer Lane looking towards the newly built Holy Trinity church. Quarry Vale seems to be partly built over with cottages but they are not yet complete as we see them today.

These works enrich the Society's archive greatly and will remind us of the sad loss of Dr Turner to Combe Down.

Kind supporters

We have had two generous grants this quarter to help us cover our running costs. First, our close neighbour Wessex Water awarded us a grant of £200 through its Community Involvement Committee, and then the Planning & Transport Development Department of B&NES awarded us a 2010-2011 Voluntary Sector Funding Award of £520. We are very grateful to these two organisations for their support for our aims and objectives and their kind contributions to our funds.

Reports on meetings

March

Our March meeting included the start of a new series of talks entitled "My House" and the first was a presentation by Simon Burrows who lives at Overland, 157 Church Road. The house is a mid Victorian Villa and thanks to a comprehensive file of legal documents and the researches of his wife Jacqueline and neighbour John English, Simon was able to give us some detail on the story of the house and its development and, more interestingly perhaps, the social history made up of those who lived and worked there. Many members in the audience knew earlier residents and were able to add considerably to the later history. Any more nuggets of information would be gratefully received!

April

In April The Chairman of the Board of Governors of Monkton School, Simon Wilsher joined us to talk about the history of the school in our village. Simon gave a very entertaining presentation on

the early days of the school in Church Road and its eventual relocation to its present home. Once again the social history surrounding the school proved at least as interesting as the buildings, and the characters who taught there and drove the development of the school community must have been inspirational.

Simon is a long time Combe Down resident living in Beechwood Road and has recently acquired Waterhouse in Monkton Combe as the HQ for his business. Unfortunately he has inherited very little history with the building and would be delighted to hear from anyone who has any information on the place. Contact Simon Burrows on 833966.

Bayntun Excursion



The recent Society visit to Bayntun's Book Bindery was an outstanding success. This family business, running now in the same premises for over 100 years, has all the traditional methods and materials of a pre-industrial age.

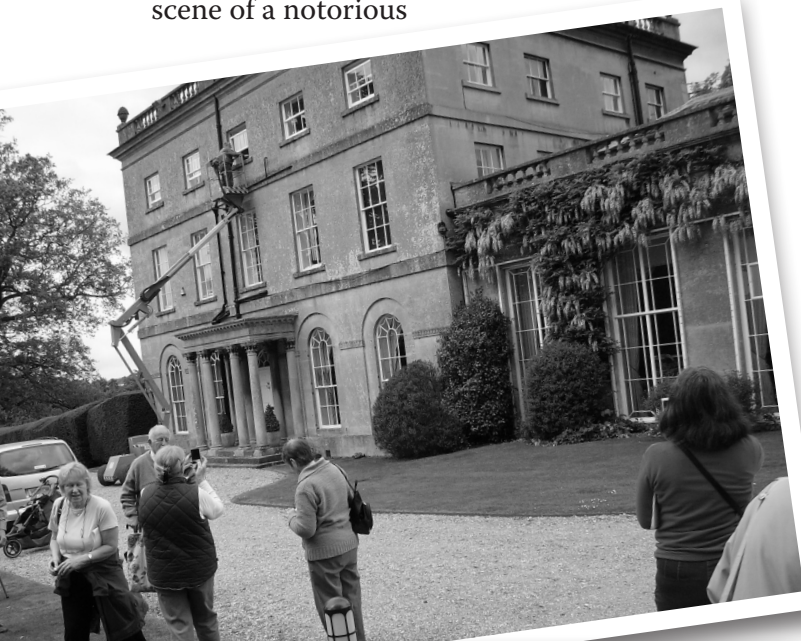


The charming third generation owner has retained highly skilled workers over many years and he showed us round with obvious love of the business. These pictures of the workshop by our photographer Robert Coles convey the atmosphere well.



Murder Most Foul

20 May saw a group of 14 or so members visit Langham House (formerly Rode Hill House) scene of a notorious



murder in 1860. The bloodstains have long disappeared and what remains is a beautiful 18th century Grade 2* country house in 18 acres of gardens and parkland. The weather was kind and we wandered through the large walled vegetable and flower gardens, all highly productive and beautifully maintained. At exactly three by the stable clock the farrier arrived and we were able to watch hot shoeing carried out on three of the resident horses. There were even 6 tiny puppies for dog lovers to coo over – all in all a perfect visit and our thanks go to our host Steph Lyons

Looking it up in Pevsner

We were greatly entertained at our meeting on 19 May with a talk given by Dr Michael Forsyth author of Bath: Pevsner Architectural Guides. He gave a fascinating insight into Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's project to produce the Buildings of England series, then he described how Pevsner's

original entry on post-war soot-blackened Bath in North Somerset and Bristol was updated and extended into a comprehensive book. The talk was illustrated with many fine photographs of buildings in the city – some familiar and some that caused a little head scratching!

Michael Forsyth is an architect and directs the postgraduate degree course in the Conservation of Historic Buildings at Bath University. He is a winner of the prestigious Rome Scholarship in Architecture and worked on the design of the new concert hall for the Toronto Symphony Orchestra with the distinguished architect Arthur Erickson. He has lived and practised in Bath since 1987. His other books include Buildings for Music: The Architect, the Musician, and the Listener from the Seventeenth Century to the Present Day. For more information on Michael go to www.bath.ac.uk

Bath at Work Museum Exhibition

Seeing the Exhibition is a must – it is open until 31 August, why not take your friends and family?



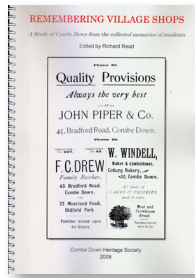
It was formally opened by Councillor Brian Chalker at a Private Viewing on 1 April when the good and great of Bath were represented and drinks and nibbles were served. Though places were limited, we were able to invite all our currently active members and there was a good turnout from the Village at "our community exhibition."

Jewish Burial Ground

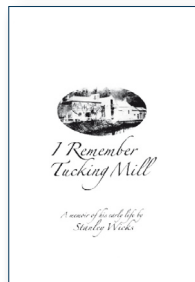
The plans for restoration move ahead. We have recently sent out invitations to seven Conservation contractors to tender for the work and when we have these at the end of June we will be in a position to cost and submit our Lottery bid. We may only get funding for part of the work but, if there are no unexpected hold-ups, this should begin before the end of the year.

Publications

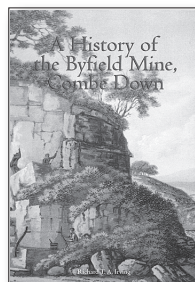
All publications are available at Society meetings and are available from the Chair or Secretary



Remembering Village Shops by Richard Read, normal price £15 but £12 to members

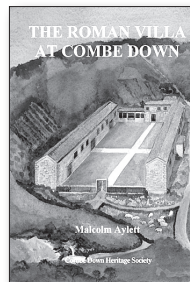


I Remember Tucking Mill by Stanley Wicks, £6.



A History of the Byfield Mine by Professor Richard Irving, £9.95.

William Smith's Venture in Stone Quarrying by Richard Irving, is now published on the Society's website www.combedownheritage.org.uk. Printed copies also available.



The Roman Villa at Combe Down by Dr Malcolm Aylett, £4.95.

Heritage Trail leaflet

by Richard Irving and Rosemary Simmons, 50p

CD of Combe Down Past and Present - available to members only, free, but a donation is expected.

All our publications are available at Society meetings and are also from Rosemary Simmons
rosyprint@care4free.net 833301
12 Greendown Place, Combe Down BA2 5DD

Contacts

Chair Rosemary Simmons ☎833301
rosyprint@care4free.net

Secretary (and of the Friends of the Jewish Burial Ground) Malcolm Aylett ☎833681,
13 Williamstowe BA2 5EJ m.aylett@homecall.co.uk

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the year become due in March. If you know of members who have not received this newsletter, it might be because they have inadvertently not paid their subscription.

Membership application for new members

If you are already a member, there is no need to fill this in - simply send your payment to Jane Briggs (see below)

First name		Surname	
<hr/>		<hr/>	
I apply to become a member of the Combe Down Heritage Society until 31 March 2011 and I agree to my details being held on computer for the duration of my membership			
Address		Postcode	Phone
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		Email	
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Membership options - please tick as required:		Total amount enclosed	Ages of children (if family membership)
Standard £5 <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior £3 <input type="checkbox"/> Family £12 <input type="checkbox"/>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px;"></div>	
I am sending an additional £ <input type="text"/> as a donation to the society			
If you pay Income tax (PAYE) on any earnings, pension or investments, please sign here so we can reclaim the tax		Signed	Date
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Payments (by cheque please, payable to 'Combe Down Heritage Society') should be sent to the Membership Secretary: Jane Briggs, Longridge, Summer Lane, Combe Down, Bath BA2 7EU.

Data protection Act. The Officers of the Society hold limited information for each member which is processed using personal computers. The Data Protection Act safeguards the protection against the misuse of such data.